Debt Repayment Scheme: Check the S$150,000 Court Referral Route

Description

You cannot apply directly for the Debt Repayment Scheme. It begins only after a bankruptcy application is filed and the High Court refers a case to the Official Assignee. Total liabilities must not exceed S$150,000, and further eligibility and suitability tests apply. This guide is for an individual facing serious unsecured debt and wondering whether the debt repayment scheme is an application they can make and resolves one task: understand the court referral route, screen the eligibility tests and prepare truthful financial documents. The material claims were checked against MinLaw Insolvency Office debtor guide and MinLaw DRS statistics.

Choose the route that matches your case

Situation	What to do
No bankruptcy application exists	DRS cannot be directly selected
Liabilities exceed S$150,000	The published ceiling is not met
Regular income and all five eligibility tests are met	Prepare for suitability assessment if referred
Sole proprietor or partner	The published eligibility test is not met

Do not pay an agent to sign you up

MinLaw states that DRS cannot be applied for directly and that the Official Assignee has not appointed agents to file bankruptcy applications. According to MinLaw Insolvency Office debtor guide, the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Treat any guaranteed-placement claim as a warning sign and use the official Insolvency Office route.

Run every eligibility test

The debtor guide requires liabilities not above S$150,000, regular employment income, no bankruptcy or DRS in the previous five years, no recent court arrangement, and no sole-proprietor or partnership status. According to MinLaw DRS statistics, the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Passing these tests permits assessment; it does not guarantee suitability.

Prepare a full financial picture

The Official Assignee asks for financial affairs, income, expenditure, supporting documents and a proposed repayment plan. According to MinLaw Insolvency Office debtor guide, the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Hidden accounts, understated expenses or missing creditor records can undermine the assessment and plan.

Budget the official fees

The guide lists S$350 preliminary administration and S$250 suitability review before a plan begins, then annual administration fees and a 1.5% collection fee. According to MinLaw DRS statistics, the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Use the live fee table for the actual case and distinguish official fees from debt instalments.

Understand when interest stops

The debtor guide says interest on creditorsâ?? filed claims stops on the day DRS starts. That is after suitability and required first payments, not when the person first asks about the scheme. According to MinLaw Insolvency Office debtor guide, the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Do not delay urgent debt advice based on an assumed interest freeze.

Model a sustainable instalment

A proposed plan must survive rent, food, transport, dependants and irregular essential costs. According to MinLaw DRS statistics, the controlling detail for this branch is the specific rule or service condition cited here.

Use verified bank and income records rather than an optimistic surplus that fails in the first quarter.

Run the numbers or sequence

A debtor with S$120,000 of liabilities and regular income passes the amount test, but a current sole proprietorship would fail one published eligibility criterion. Even a fully eligible person must still be assessed as suitable after court referral.

The calculation or sequence above is an LBRD working example. Replace every example input with the amount, date, access condition or document from your own case. Keep the official rate or threshold beside the working so another person can reproduce the answer.

Build a verification note another person can check

Before acting, create a one-page case note headed with the task, the date checked and the person responsible. Copy only the facts that affect your decision, then attach the statement, booking, application, receipt, map record or screenshot that supplies your own input. This separates a published rule from a personal assumption. If the official page changes, keep the earlier dated record but rework the decision with the live version.

Controlling source	What to verify	What to retain
MinLaw Insolvency Office debtor guide	Court referral route, S$150,000 ceiling, eligibility tests, assessment, payment start and fees.	Record the page date, the exact rule used and the case input it governs.
MinLaw DRS statistics	Current programme statistics link as at 31 July 2026 and scheme context.	Record the page date, the exact rule used and the case input it governs.

Read the source in context, including definitions, exceptions and effective dates. A relevant page is not proof by itself: the cited passage must contain the particular rate, deadline, eligibility condition, access rule or warning used here. Where two official channels appear inconsistent, pause and ask the authority about the exact case rather than choosing the more convenient answer.

Use the guide with its limits

This guide is decision support, not personalised financial or legal advice. Protect essential spending first, use exact statements and contracts, and treat any modelled amount as an estimate until the relevant institution confirms the case-specific figure.

No interview, personal use, fresh field visit, survey result or price check is claimed unless explicitly stated. Availability, fees and procedures can change. Reopen the linked authority page immediately before payment, travel, filing or emergency use.

Before you act

1. List every creditor and liability
2. Confirm employment and income
3. Check five-year history
4. Identify any business-owner status
5. Build truthful income and expense records
6. Budget official fees

7. Get legal or debt advice before deadlines run

Mistakes that change the outcome

- Paying an alleged DRS agent
- Treating S$150,000 as the only test
- Hiding a liability
- Assuming interest stops immediately
- Proposing an impossible surplus

Continue with the relevant LBRD guide

Next, see how revolving debt grows. You can also build a recovery file for another money problem.

Questions readers ask

Can I sign up for DRS?

No. MinLaw says the route begins with a bankruptcy application and court referral.

What is the liability ceiling?

S$150,000 under the current published guide.

Does eligibility guarantee entry?

No. The Official Assignee also assesses suitability.

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